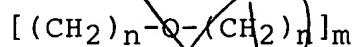


by hydroxy, carboxy, halogen, alkoxy, amino groups; a polyoxy-alkylene chain of formula



wherein n is 2 or 3 and m is an integer from 2 to 10; a C₅-C₇ cycloalkyl group; an aryl or hetaryl group, preferably 1,3 or 1,4 disubstituted benzene.---

---5. (Amended) A process according to Claim 4 wherein the polysaccharide is saponified with lipophilic cations.---

---7. (Amended) A process according to Claim 4 wherein the cross-linking reaction is carried out in anhydrous dimethylformamide or tetrahydrofuran.---

---8. (Amended) A process according to Claim 4 wherein the obtained cross-linked polysaccharide is further subjected to sulfation of the hydroxy groups by reaction with pyridine/sulfur trioxide complex.---

---10. (Amended) A process according to Claim 8 wherein the cross-linked, optionally sulfated polysaccharide, is further subjected to complexation reaction with aqueous solutions of copper, zinc or iron ions.---

---11. (Amended) Cross linked polysaccharides obtainable by the process of Claim 4.---

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in order to conform the claims to U.S. practice by eliminating multiple dependency of claims.